

IFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kazumichi Machida et al

Confirmation No. 3628

Serial No.: 10/709,629

Group Art Unit: 2829

Filed: May 18, 2004

Examiner: Emily Y. Chan

For: PROBE SHEET AND PROBE SHEET UNIT USING SAME

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND  
STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 15, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these references is attached.

Documents AA and AB were cited in a European Search Report dated November 24, 2004. A copy of the search report is also attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry in the national stage for the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of either a final official action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement, and, to

Serial No.: 10/709,629

the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no information contained in this statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



George N. Stevens  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 36,938

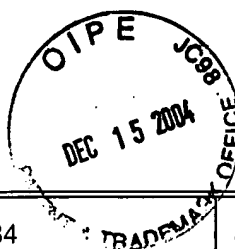
Atty. Docket No. 040184  
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 659-2930  
GNS/nk



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO1449; European Search Report; 2 references



<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449</b>	Atty. Docket No. 040184	Serial No. 10/709,629
	Applicant(s): Kazumichi Machida et al	
	Filing Date: May 18, 2004	Group Art Unit: 2829

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA	2002/0055581	Lorah et al	5/9/02	524	501	9/17/01
_____	AB	2002/0058739	Lorah et al	5/16/02	524	445	9/17/01
_____	AC						
_____	AD						
_____	AE						

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AF				
_____	AG				
_____	AH				
_____	AI				
_____	AJ				

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

_____	AK	European Search Report dated 11/24/04.
_____	AL	
Examiner		Date Considered